

**Miltenberger, Molly**

**From:** Mastel, Tara <tara.mastel@montana.edu>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 23, 2013 12:14 PM  
**To:** Miltenberger, Molly  
**Cc:** kirk@kirkbwagoner.org; 'Mary Hensleigh'; 'murphter5@yahoo.com'  
**Subject:** Support for HB 2 and Main Street Program

Dear Ms. Miltenberger,

Please pass my support for the **Main Street program** on to the following Committee members: Ryan Osmundson, Kelly McCarthy, Champ Edmunds, Alan Olson, Dave Wanzenried, Ed Buttrey

Dear Committee members:

Please support the **Main Street Program** as it is included in **House Bill 2**. As an economic developer in rural Montana, the Main Street program has provided me with essential tools I need to be effective in my job. These tools are not available elsewhere.

With Main Street's help, I have been able to accomplish the following things:

- **Immediate analysis of fire damaged buildings** by structural engineer after Whitehall's downtown fire of 2009.
- Assistance with creating a **funding source for downtown infrastructure improvements** through the establishment of an Urban Renewal District in Whitehall.
- Received funding for an essential study required for a **\$1.5 Million renovation** of the largest building in Whitehall thanks to being directed to the opportunity by the Main Street program.
- **Training for main street business owners** through the annual Main Street Conference.
- **Tailored board training for Boulder** to help revitalize the business and volunteer base.
- **Tailored board training for Whitehall** regarding legalities of operating a non-profit organization.

As main street is the vital center of each of our rural communities, so is the Montana Main Street Program for rural economic developers. Please support the continuation of the program.

Should you require additional information please contact Tara Mastel at 406-287-3282.

Thank you,

Tara Mastel

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